



IOWA FIRSTNET PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

Summit. Iowa FirstNet held a Public Private Partnership Summit on August 13, 2015, to disseminate information and take questions from those attending. FirstNet is a proposed nationwide broadband network just for public safety users. The discussion panel consisted of:

- Ric Lumbard, Executive Director, Iowa Communications Network (ICN)
- Bob Von Wolfradt, Iowa Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
- Sgt. Thomas Lampe, Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Dave Duncan, CEO, Iowa Communications Alliance
- Ryan Boone, Regulatory Manager, Premier Communications, Inc.

Future Deployment. There are no firm deadlines for the network to be deployed. Director Lumbard indicated that Iowa will insist on statewide 100.0% LTE coverage from the network, as there are no rural areas currently in Iowa that do not have cellular service, and a natural disaster such as a tornado or flooding can touch any part of the State. When the network is deployed, it is thought that going to targeted areas of the State where coverage might be underserved and deploying region by region would be best.

Current Status in Iowa. Currently, the State is in the process of putting the specifications together that Iowa will need for the network, as well as surveying the State to provide information on vertical infrastructure. Outreach to every county in Iowa is also being done for education purposes. Six regional workshops will be held throughout the State beginning next week in Polk County.

Nationwide Progress. Currently, 44 states have received initial consultations. Iowa is getting ready for its second consultation, after which a decision on opting in or out of the network will be discussed. This time period could be 1-2 years. Iowa was one of the first states to receive an initial consultation last fall and, in general, is farther ahead than most states in process. Director Lumbard does not see a workable financial model for opting out, as the cost to provide our own network (which is required by federal law) would be well over \$155.0 million.

Request for Proposals (RFP) Concerns. FirstNet has expressed an intention to choose a large, nationwide company for selection as the overall provider. Iowa is concerned that their smaller telecommunications companies also be given the opportunity to be vendors, especially since several are active in the more rural areas of the State. Ultimately it is a federal procurement decision, but Iowa will be vocal in requesting this. Additionally, the idea of having a requirement that Iowa workers be used in installing the network was raised. It was stated that the Broadband Committee will draft a statement later this fall, advocating procurement at the State level.

Additional Information. Additional summits may be scheduled in the future. Additional information regarding FirstNet is available on the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) [website](#) and at the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) [website](#).

STAFF CONTACTS: Alice Fulk Wisner (515-281-6764) alice.wisner@legis.iowa.gov
Jennifer Acton (515-281-7846) jennifer.acton@legis.iowa.gov